

**Washington** - Rep. Charlie Wilson (D-OH) today joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives and backed legislation to support our troops, ensure they have the time at home they deserve after serving in combat and help alleviate the worst military readiness crisis since the Vietnam War. The Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act was approved by a vote of 229-194.

"The American people sent us to Congress last fall to do something about the war in Iraq," Wilson said. "The ultimate goal is to bring our troops home. And I believe we are hammering away at the difficult task of turning this war around by demanding a new direction from the Administration. As we maintain that steady drumbeat for change, I'm proud we continue to look after the needs of our troops."

The legislation approved today strengthens the American military by mandating minimum periods of rest and recuperation for units and members of regular and reserve components of our Armed Forces between deployments. The bill states that if a unit or member of a regular component of the Armed Forces deploys to Iraq, they will have an equivalent amount of time at home before they are redeployed.

The legislation was backed by a bipartisan majority in Congress and was supported by Veterans for America and the Reserve Enlisted Association.

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